

State of California

Delta Protection Agency

General Meeting, May 24, 2007

Need to: REESTABLISH A SAFE PASSAGE MARKER
IN LOWER SHERMAN ISLAND LAKE

Lower Sherman Island Lake was formed when the levee was last breached, in 1875, and it was decided not to reclaim the land. The property was eventually sold to the State of California for One dollar.

Today the area is “owned” by the California Department of Fish and Game as a game preserve to guarantee hunting access to the public. As with most flooded delta islands, there were many underwater obstructions left behind. One of these were a row of telephone poles crossing the island.

At some point in time before I started boating in 1950, one of these was used to establish a safe passage marker. Another marker was established near the third opening into the Sacramento river. By using the markers, boaters and fishermen would have a safe path of navigation through Sherman lake. Boating traffic over the years has maintained this safe passage as much of the lake has silted up and filled with non-native, invasive water weeds.

The northern marker disappeared in the mid ‘70’s, but is not currently needed, as Light “10” in the Sacramento river can now serve as the range marker. The center marker finally disappeared the in winter of 2006. Anonymous boaters over the years, have repaired this marker. In the ‘80’s a steel drum was anchored next to the marker, but became the victim of gunfire and sank. In 2004 a steel pipe was driven into the silt bottom, but this was stolen, probably for the radar reflector attached to it.

A representative of Senator Torlakson's office contacted the Department of Fish and Game and was "UNOFFICIALLY" told to do anything we wanted because no one cares, and there was no supervision of the area. Local boating organizations were contacted to organize placing a new piling in the lake but refused do to possible future liability.

When updating the Lower Sherman Island Land Management Plan, Fish and Game recommends establishing direction signs and markers for the area, BUT hasten to say there are no funds available now, and none likely in the future.

The underwater obstructions are still in the lake, having dry-rotted to just below the low tide level, but still very dangerous if struck by a boat underway. The center marker needs to be reestablished to prevent boating accidents, and to help maintain the "natural" dredging of the safe passage through Lower Sherman Island lake.

Sherman Lake is a very popular multi-use recreational area supporting fishing, boating, hunting, water skiing, jet skiing, sail boarding, swimming kayaking, and "Bird Watching". Sherman Lake is truly one of the Delta's crown jewels, which, with the exception of the launching ramp, maintained by Sacramento County, has maintained itself over the years.

Tonight I am requesting direction from the Delta Protection Commission to reestablish the center safe passage marker in

Lower Sherman Island lake. This area is in the Delta Primary Zone.

Sincerely,

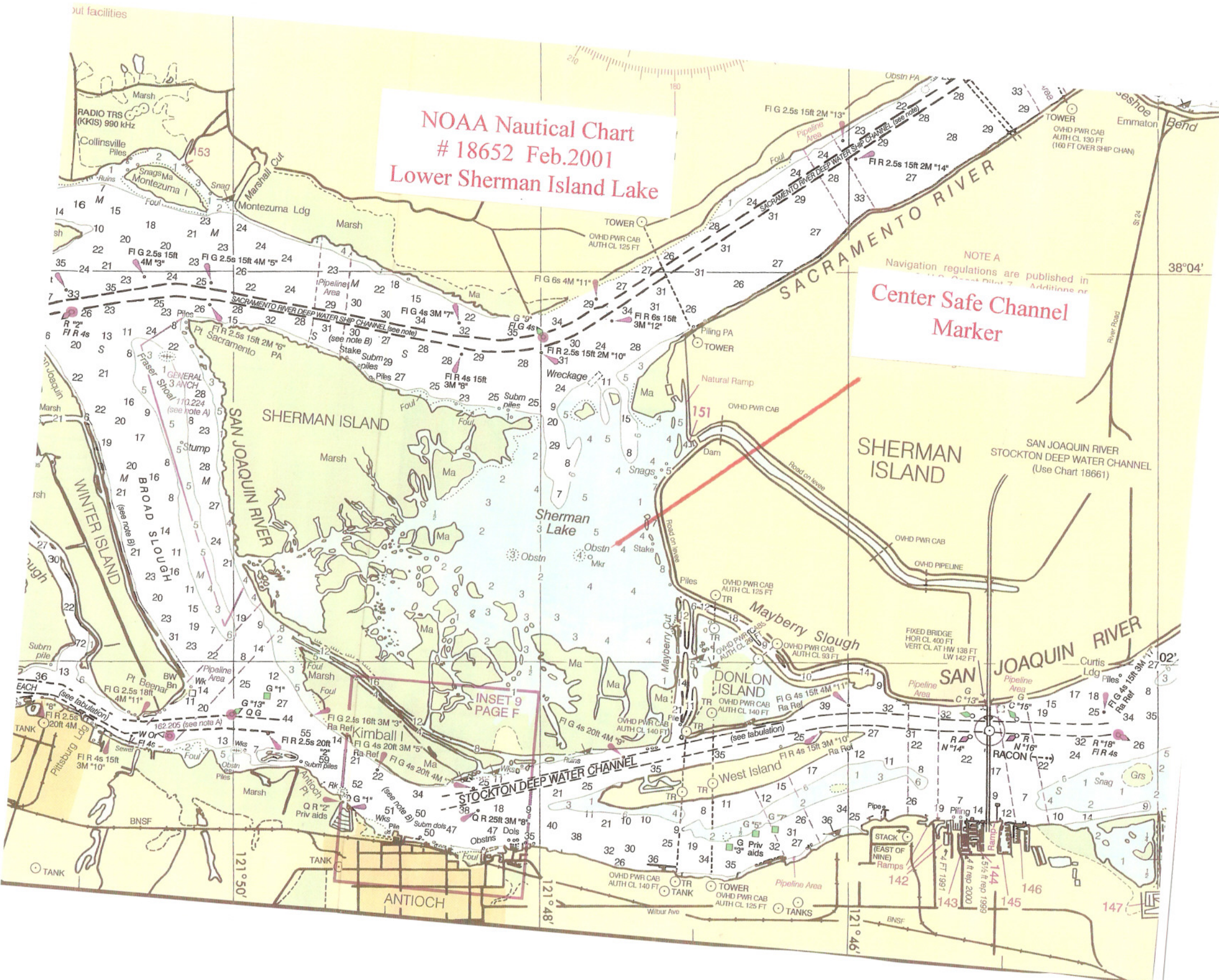
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Worrell".

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Member: Sportsmen, Inc. Yacht Club
California Striped Bass Association
Driftwood Yacht Club

NOAA Nautical Chart
18652 Feb.2001
Lower Sherman Island Lake

Center Safe Channel
Marker



NOTE A
Navigation regulations are published in
the Coast Pilot 7 Additions or

INSET 9
PAGE F

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
STOCKTON DEEP WATER CHANNEL
(Use Chart 18661)

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